

REC 1: Minutemen
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Everything Top Secret On Far Right

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HOUSTON, June 29.—For techniques of super secrecy, James Bond might take lessons from the "Minutemen," the ultra-rightists "training" for the day "when Americans will once again fight in the streets for their lives and their liberty."

A recent letter of inquiry to their home office, P. O. Box 68, Norborne, Mo., brought this amazing packet:

- A plain outer envelope, postmarked from Richmond, Mo., with no return address.

- An inner assortment of material wrapped in a heavy, gray sheet of mimeograph paper to prevent "your mail from being read by infra-red cameras."

- A membership application form, "Classification: Secret," and a return stamped envelope addressed to "Biolab Corporation, Norborne, Missouri."

On a letterhead marked with the outline of a 1775 "Minuteman" with long rifle in one hand, Robert B. DePugh, national coordinator, advised by form letter:

'ONLY ORGANIZATION'

"... our members have long ago learned the futility trying to 'wake people up' and of writing to disinterested Congressmen. We are the only organization in America that is actively fighting communism right now.

"This is not a job for amateurs. It requires not only dedication to the cause of liberty but the willingness to study and train until we reach a degree of skill by which our members can compete with the Communists on their own terms."

FURTHER ADVICE

By sending in the application and \$5 patriots may expect to be accepted as a "provisional member." Full members must complete a correspondence training course in the scientific principles of underground warfare."

In a separate notice to "prospective members" the Minutemen advise:

"Newspapers and television have pictured the Minutemen as a bunch of crackpots running around shooting off their guns without any idea or why they were doing it. This is exactly the type of persons we don't want in our organization. . . .

"He fully expect that we will have to fight in one way or another before victory is achieved. . . . There is no place in this organization for bunglers, playboys or lukewarm conservatives. If you join the Minutemen,

there might easily come a time that your life would depend on how completely some other member had learned his job."

Dues are \$2 per month. "Every member will be expected to buy his own gun, ammunition and other equipment."

In "practical security measures," new applicants are told:

- "Use deceptive measures," by subscribing to left wing periodicals or getting on "peace movement" mailing lists. "This will keep the postal inspectors guessing as to which side you are really on." Search this left-wing literature "for names and addresses of fellow travelers and forwarding this information for our central intelligence files."

- Use two envelopes in sending mail. Avoid a return address on the outer envelope. Use opaque material between envelopes to avoid infra-red cameras.

- Use mail boxes or post offices "where you are not known."

- Avoid telephone calls to headquarters or other members. "Prepare telephone codes ahead of time for future protection."

- In recruiting new members, "make sure he is not an infiltrator, before you identify the organization."

SHORT HISTORY

A "short history" of the Minutemen said that 10 sportsmen organized a duck hunting club in June, 1960.

One Sunday, someone "mentioned the current international crisis and another man said jokingly, well, if the Russians invade us, we can come up here and fight as a guerrilla band."

That conversation led to a study of guerrilla warfare and politics; the study concluded:

"Our diplomatic war against communism has already been lost by bunglers or traitors within our own government. . . .

"... A pro-American government could no longer be established by normal political means.

"The minority vote blocks, (sic) controlled labor unions, and corrupt political machines so completely monopolize the American political scene that there is no chance for the average American citizen to regain control of his own destiny at the ballot box."

They turned to guerrilla training, the history said, because guerrillas "can fight on for years, even for generations. Guerrilla bands can fight in the cities, country, forests, swamps, deserts or mountains. They are everywhere and yet nowhere. They strike without warning and vanish without a trace. They take away with them the arms, food and ammunition they will need to fight again."